

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE UTILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION  
GARDNER, KANSAS**

Page No. 2021-16  
July 1, 2021

The Utilities Advisory Commission of Gardner, Kansas, met in Regular Session on July 1, 2021, at City Hall. Present were Chairperson Kristina Harrison, Vice-Chairperson Jake Wells, Commissioner Gary Williams, Commissioner Barbara Coleman, Commissioner Bryce Augustine, Utilities Department Director Gonzalo Garcia, Kill Creek WRRF Superintendent Scott Millholland, Administrative Assistant Erin Groh, and one member of the public.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kristina Harrison.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Standing approval of the minutes as written for the June 3, 2021, meeting of the Utility Advisory Commission.**

Motion by Commissioner Augustine, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried 5-0 Aye

**NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Consider a recommendation to the City Council to award a contract to Ford Hall Company in the amount of \$33,920.00 for the Kill Creek WRRF Clarifier improvements, Project No. WW1904.**

Kill Creek Water Resource Recovery Facility Superintendent Scott Millholland presented the staff report. Millholland explained that as part of the treatment process, the facility uses a Weir Wolf Automated Cleaning System manufactured by Ford Hall Company on both mechanical clarifiers. The proprietary cleaning system was part of the original design of the plant. This system cleans the algae buildup off the channels and v-notch weirs prior to the effluent going to the UV system. Effluent water then discharges to Kill Creek, a tributary of the Kansas River. The proposed cleaning system will reduce the amount of algae and TSS "total suspended solids" while providing clean water before reaching the UV disinfection and recycled water process. This system will ensure continued compliance with Kill Creek's KDHE water pollution control permit. Staff contacted the Ford Hall Company for a proposal on a turnkey replacement of all brushes, arms and equipment associated with the Weir Wolf Cleaning System. Utilities staff has reviewed the proposals presented by Ford Hall Company and agree the equipment provided meet and exceed all of the original requirements.

Motion by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Commissioner Augustine, to forward the recommendation to the City Council to award a contract to the Ford Hall Company in an amount of \$33,920.00 for the Kill Creek WRRF Clarifier improvements, Project No. WW1904.

Motion carried 5-0 Aye

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Project Updates.**

Director Garcia gave a brief update of the Hillsdale Water Treatment Plant expansion project. The expansion has been substantially completed. The week prior, the north plant was put into service and we were able to produce about 1 million gallons. The new plant is now producing 1m and the old plant is producing 2 m. Everything is working according to the design group. In the next few weeks staff will be watching to make sure everything is working properly.

The rebate program was not passed by City Council due to lack of evidence that the rebates the UAC brought forth would benefit the electric utility. Director Garcia explained the feedback that was received from council on the rebates. UAC Members debated a bit what the pros and cons of having the rebate program. It was discussed that because there isn't a power demand problem, a monetary benefit to the city's electric utility is not feasible, however there could be green energy benefits from less usage or more efficient usage of water and electric. Director Garcia and UAC commissioners concluded that the rebate program at this point wouldn't be researched any further as a board for the time being.

### **2. Electric 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Outage Reports**

Director Garcia presented the Electric Outage report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. Electric staff responded to 14 outages affecting 346 customers: 6 caused by equipment failures, 4 caused by animals, and 4 caused by other reasons. The average workday response time was 13 minutes and the average workday length of outage was 28 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 49 minutes and the average after-hours length of outage was 2 hours and 19 minutes. The overall average response time was 44 minutes and the overall average length of outage was 2 hours and 3 minutes.

### **3. Wastewater 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Outage Reports**

Director Garcia presented the Wastewater Collection report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. Line maintenance staff completed 11 sanitary sewer line repairs affecting 9 customers, with 2 being caused by roots, 2 due to damage by others and 5 due to residents' issues. The average workday response time was 15 minutes and the average workday repair time was 10 hours and 7 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 4 minutes and the average after-hours repair time was 1 hour and 29 minutes. The overall average response time was 12 minutes and the overall average repair time was 7 hours and 46 minutes.

### **4. Water 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Outage Reports.**

Director Garcia presented the Water Distribution Repairs Report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2021. Line maintenance staff completed 60 water distribution service repairs affecting 83 customers: 9 due to line failures, 6 due to valve failure, 15 due to damage by others, 22 due to residents' issues, and 8 due to other issues. The average workday response time was 45 minutes and the average workday repair time was 5 hours and 27 minutes. The average after-hours response time was 20 minutes and the average after-hours repair time was 3 hours and 30 minutes. The overall average response time was 37 minutes and the overall average repair time was 4 hours and 60 minutes.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Coleman asked about the tracking of backflow tests and if they're coming in from businesses. Coleman asked about how many test forms the Utilities Department has received so far. Erin Groh responded that at the current date for residential tests about 2/3 have been submitted and for commercial about 50% have been submitted.

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Commissioner Coleman asked for an update on where the city is at with the Nexgrid app for the smart meters. Director Garcia stated that it was supposed to be out in June but it's not ready yet. Garcia said he has a meeting with them July 2.

Commissioner Augustine asked about what the progress is on water smart meters. Garcia said that they're about 53% complete. Augustine asked how it is determined the order in which the smart meters are installed and if it's done by neighborhood? Garcia said that they're grouping them by areas which is the same way they used to do water meter readings, in other words, they're doing them by the cycles (billing groups).

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Vice-Chair Wells, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Motion carried 5-0 Aye

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Erin Groh \_\_\_\_\_

Utilities Department Administrative Assistant